

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200187

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, NL

SUBJ: NATO SPECIALIZATION STUDY SUB-GROUP NAVY

REFS: A. USNATO 4508; B. STATE 192714; C. USNATO 4612;

D. THE HAGUE 4404; E. USNATO 4784

1. WE CONCUR IN THE FORMATION OF THE NAVY SPECIALIZATION
SUB-GROUP UNDER UK CHAIRMANSHIP AS PROPOSED REFS A AND C.

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2. WE ALSO CONCUR WITH CONCENTRATING THE STUDY OF MARITIME SPECIALIZATION ON THE PROTECTION OF THE SEALINES OF COMMUNICATIONS. BECAUSE OF THE BROAD GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED STUDY, WE ALSO STRONGLY CONCUR THAT THE MARITIME MNCS AS WELL AS INTERESTED COUNTRIES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY AS RECOMMENDED IN REF A.

3. WHILE WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF SUB-PARAGRAPH 14 OF PARA 1, REF A BEING INCLUDED IN THE TOR, YOU SHOULD STRESS THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE IS TO EXAMINE WHICH COMBAT AND SUPPORT MISSIONS CAN BE ASSIGNED TO ONE COUNTRY ENABLING OTHER COUNTRIES TO CONCENTRATE THEIR (UNDIMINISHED) RESOURCES ON OTHER MISSIONS. IN ADDITION, YOU SHOULD ALSO DRAW FROM THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER THAT A MORE COMPREHENSIVE BASE BE CONSIDERED FOR WORKING UP THE FINAL TOR.

-- THE STUDY SHOULD PROCEED FROM THE BASIS OF CURRENT NATO STRATEGY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE AGGREGATE OF DEFENSE TASKS AND CAPABILITIES OF THE NAVAL FORCES UNDER REVIEW.

-- THE STUDY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE PROTECTION OF THE SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATION (SLOC) SUPPORTING NATO AND THE WAYS IN WHICH SPECIALIZATION CAN ENHANCE THIS PROTECTION.

-- THE STUDY SHOULD FOCUS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF SPECIALIZATION IN SUCH AREAS AS TRAINING, WEAPONS SYSTEMS, LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND THE FORMATION OF MULTI-NATIONAL TASK GROUPS. IN THE LAST CASE, SOME COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE THE MORE SOPHISTICATED SHIPS AND OTHERS WOULD PROVIDE THE BULK OF THE OCEAN ESCORTS, LOGISTICS SUPPORT SHIPS, MINE SWEEPERS, ETC.

4. IN VIEW OF THE AMBITIOUS SCOPE AND LATE START OF THIS EFFORT, REQUEST MISSION'S EVALUATION OF THE NAVY SUB-GROUP'S LIKELY ACHIEVEMENTS BY DECEMBER. WE EXPECT THIS SUB-GROUP EVENTUALLY TO FULFILL THE CHARGE OF THE OTHER SPECIALIZATION STUDIES: A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF SPECIALIZATION AND A LIMITED

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NUMBER OF SPECIFIC SPECIALIZATION PROPOSALS WHICH, AS APPROPRIATE, MAY BE RECOMMENDED FOR FURTHER DETAILED ANALYSES.

5. YOU SHOULD USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND THE DUTCH AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS THAT THE SPECIALIZATION EXERCISE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VEHICLE TO JUSTIFY UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS.

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